**EDC 423 Class Activity: Creating Supportive Learning Contexts**

Imagine you have just been hired to teach in a fourth grade classroom. It is August 15 and you have one week to get your classroom set up before the new school year begins. Think about the types of students you will have and how you would like to communicate your love of literacy and learning to these students. Brainstorm what you want students to SEE in your classroom and what you would want students to FEEL in your classroom. First work independently, then with a partner to brainstorm ideas.

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| WHAT YOU SEE…. |
| WHAT YOU FEEL… |

“One of the things good teachers do is create a classroom context that in some ways mimics a real world context. If a child learns how to use reading and writing to get things done in the classroom, then the child also knows how to use reading and writing to get things done outside of the classroom. “ (Jeanne Paratore, Teaching Reading 3-5). View the first section of the video at: <http://www.learner.org/workshops/teachreading35/session1/index.html> and jot notes about what you see and what you feel as you observe how these teachers plan and organize their classrooms for literacy and learning.

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| WHAT YOU SEE…. |
| WHAT YOU FEEL… |

QUICK WRITE: What key ideas have you learned about how to set up your own classroom culture to foster reading, writing, and a love of learning?